

Date: February 26, 21020

To: The Mayor and City of Saskatoon Councillors

From: Edwin and Ann Ralph
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S7K [REDACTED]

We hereby express our opposition to the City's intention to consider banning the availability and practice of conversion therapy (including such options as change therapy, counselling, advice, and prayer) for individuals who choose to no longer to identify as LGBT.

In our view, it is unconstitutional and immoral for any individual or group to attempt to deny same-sex attracted and gender-uncertain people the option of pursuing change in their orientation, identity, or behaviours, if they so desire. Persons who experience unwanted same-sex attractions or gender dysphoria should have the freedom to seek medical, psychological, or spiritual counsel and/or treatment in order to obtain the personal healing and wellness they seek. People who identify as LGBT have the right to change, if they are so inclined. Never should they be denied access to personnel who are qualified, trained, and willing to help them pursue treatment.

In the light of Canada's Constitution, we consider any attempt to ban conversion therapy to represent a dangerous and unprecedented political intrusion into matters related to science, medicine, health, spirituality, and personal autonomy. No level of government has a right to prevent anyone who wants to change from seeking help from qualified doctors, psychologists, psychiatrists, counsellors, or therapists.

In our view, it is unconscionable for any a government body at any level to assume a totalitarian stance to attempt to violate the fundamental human rights of individuals who intentionally request an agency to help them change their behaviors or lifestyle.

cc: Grosvenor Park United Church